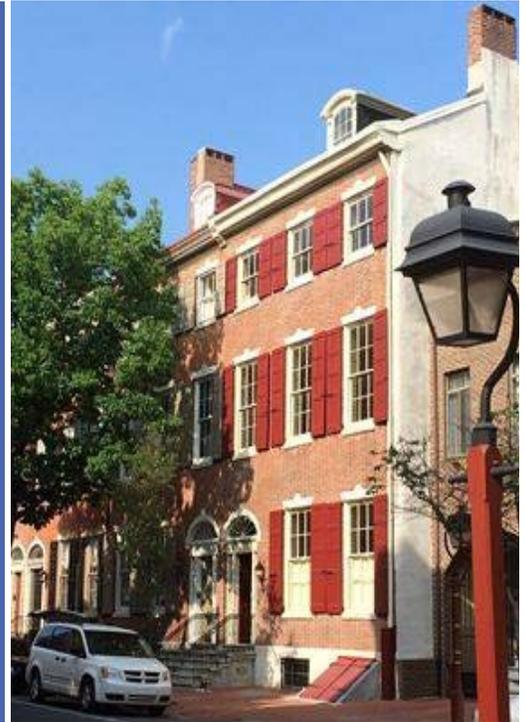


# American Catholic Historical Society

263 SOUTH FOURTH STREET | PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106 | WWW.AMCHS.ORG



FALL 2018

## From Our President

Twelve more pages have turned on the calendar since our last newsletter. This is our third edition, and I hope everyone has enjoyed catching up on the Society's exciting events and accomplishments described in the newsletter these past two years. Please enjoy this year's edition and share in our excitement and pride in what we have accomplished with your support.

As if the contents of this newsletter weren't enough, I would like to add that we have secured a two-year extension of our loan agreement with PAFA of our Thomas Eakins painting, "The Translator." It has been on display continuously since the first day of our partnership. Go see it if you get a chance.

I am blessed to be serving my fifth year as Society president. I am honored to have my name listed along with so many great presidents going back to

1884. I want to thank Thomas Rzeznik for his service as vice president for the past four years. Tom's duties as co-editor of our journal, our liaison with the archdiocesan archives, and coordinator of our speakers and lectures are keeping him very busy. Kathleen Oxx has stepped up to serve in the VP role. Join me in thanking Tom and wishing Katie success.

I give thanks to our dedicated board, and thank you for continuing to be members, subscribers, and advocates of American Catholic history, and in particular the work of the American Catholic Historical Society. We have been at our mission for over 130 years, and with your help, we will be around for hundreds more.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Finnegan  
President, ACHS



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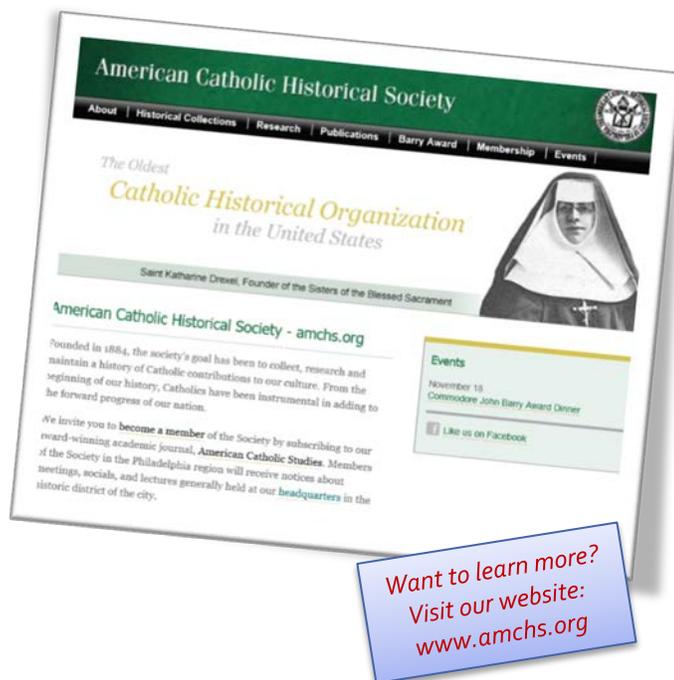
## About the ACHS

Founded in 1884, the American Catholic Historical Society (ACHS) was established for the purpose of collecting and preserving materials related to the history of the Catholic Church in the United States and for documenting the contributions of Catholics to the building of the nation. It is the oldest historical society of its kind in the United States.

An independent, non-profit organization, the ACHS continues to promote the documentation and interpretation of the history of the Catholic Church in the United States. It accomplishes its ongoing mission by publishing an award-winning academic journal, *American Catholic Studies*; sponsoring public lectures and other Society events; and supporting the preservation of its

historical collections located at the Catholic Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Membership in the Society is open to all persons who share an interest in the history of American Catholicism.



### BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- A subscription to Society's award-winning quarterly journal, *American Catholic Studies*.
- Discounted pricing for the ACHS's annual lectures and other events.
- Invitation to regular social gatherings, including our annual Christmas Party, St. Patrick's Day Social, and Summer Garden Party.



Plaster bust of Thomas Fitzsimons by Giuseppe Donato, now on display on the first floor of the Society's house.

## A New Addition to Our Collection

This past January, the ACHS had the opportunity to acquire a plaster bust of Thomas Fitzsimons (1741-1811), one of the two Catholic signers of the U.S. Constitution. Showing Fitzsimons with a quill in his hand as a symbol of that deed, the bust served as the model for the full-size bronze statue of Fitzsimons erected in 1946 that currently stands on 18<sup>th</sup> Street facing the cathedral. Fitzsimons himself is buried in the churchyard of Old St. Mary's, directly across the street from the Society's house.

The bust and completed statue are the work of Giuseppe Donato (1881-

1965), a prominent local sculptor and student of Rodin, who studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and maintained a studio at 717 Delancey Street. Among his other notable works is "Family Unity," the eastern pediment on the Philadelphia Family Court Building on Vine Street, a short distance from the cathedral.

The ACHS is delighted to be able to preserve this piece of important Catholic Americana. It is a nice complement to our house collection, which includes a sideboard once owned by Fitzsimons that currently sits in the upstairs parlor.



Commodore John Barry  
Father of the American Navy

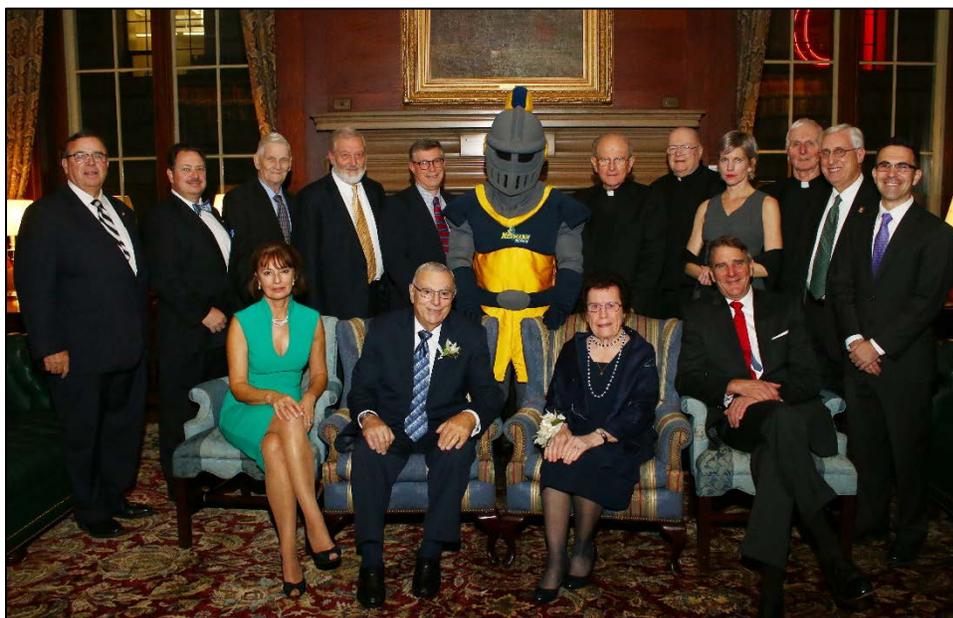
## The 2017 Barry Award

Every year, the American Catholic Historical Society bestows its Commodore John Barry Award upon someone whose professional accomplishments and contributions to the church and the community have been deemed outstanding.

This past year, on November 10, 2017 that honor was given to Dr. Rosalie Mirinda, President Emeritus of Neumann University. Noted as a tireless advocate and savvy visionary, under her leadership the university expanded its campus, added several new academic programs, increased its athletic program, and built new residence halls to serve its growing student population. Through it all, she strengthened the university's commitment to its Catholic, Franciscan heritage and its belief that knowledge, while valuable in itself, is best used in service to others.

The dinner was a memorable tribute to a distinguished leader in Catholic higher education. The evening's program was co-chaired by Monsignor Joseph McLoone and retired local news anchor Pat Ciarrocchi, who together offered a welcome to the assembled guests. The invocation was offered by Bishop Timothy Senior and the national anthem was performed by the Neumann University Concert Chorale. The high point of the program came with the presentation of the Barry Award, which included a moving tribute by Dr. Mirinda's daughter, Lee Mirinda DelleMonache, and a video produced by Neumann University that enabled students and colleagues to offer stories of the tremendous impact Dr. Mirinda has made in their lives. In her acceptance speech, Dr. Mirinda spoke of the values of faith and family, and how grateful she is of the opportunities she has been given. The program ended with remarks by ACHS president Michael Finnegan and a benediction by Sister Marguerite O'Beirne, OSF, Neumann University's Vice President for Mission and Ministry.

We are grateful to all those who attended the dinner or served as patrons and benefactors. As our sole fundraising event of the year, proceeds from the Barry Dinner help sustain the work of the Society. The donations received help us maintain our facilities, expand our public programming, support historical research, and underwrite the publication of our award-winning quarterly journal, *American Catholic Studies*.



*Dr. Rosalie Mirinda (seated, second from right), recipient of the 2017 Barry Award, is joined by her husband, Tony, the Neumann University Knight, and members of the ACHS board at last year's dinner. Photo by Sarah Webb.*

### BARRY AWARD DINNER – 2018



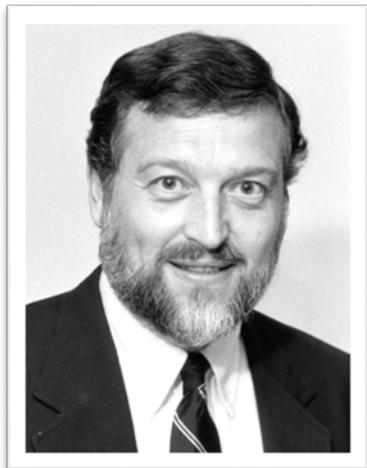
Join us on Friday, November 16, 2018 as we honor James D. and Jacqueline J. Delaney as our 2018 Barry Award recipients.

James, CEO of JD Capital Inc., and his wife, Jacqueline, are leaders in the world of Catholic philanthropy. Through their leadership positions in the National Catholic Community Foundation, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Heritage of Faith capital campaign, and the Catholic Leadership Institute, among others, they have demonstrated a commitment to generous and effective stewardship, and have worked to inspire others to develop habits and practices of meaningful giving.

For tickets or sponsorship information, please contact Jim Fitzsimmons, Reservations Chair, at 267-716-9716 or [jfitzsimmons0124@gmail.com](mailto:jfitzsimmons0124@gmail.com).

## Tribute to ACS editor, Rodger Van Allen

To honor Rodger Van Allen's retirement as co-editor of *American Catholic Studies*, the ACHS Board of Managers passed the following resolution at its May 2018 meeting. It expresses our grateful appreciation for all that he has done for the journal in his time as co-editor.



*Whereas*, the American Catholic Historical Society was founded with a mission to promote research on the history of American Catholicism and make it available to the public through the publication of a scholarly journal, *The Records of the American Catholic Historical Society*; and

*Whereas*, Rodger Van Allen envisioned the need to revive the *Records* in 1999 and worked to relaunch the journal as *American Catholic Studies*, ensuring its place as the oldest-continuously published Catholic scholarly journal in the United States; and

*Whereas*, Rodger Van Allen served tirelessly and faithfully as co-editor of *American Catholic Studies* from 1999-2017 (vols. 110-128), making it a leading voice in the field, committed to the interdisciplinary exploration of American Catholicism in all its dynamism and diversity, be it

*Resolved*, that the American Catholic Historical Society, on behalf of its members:

- 1) Honors and is grateful to Rodger Van Allen for his years of service as co-editor of *American Catholic Studies*; and
- 2) Expresses its sincere appreciation to Rodger Van Allen for his many contributions to historical scholarship and the ongoing mission of the Society.

## American Catholic Studies

*American Catholic Studies* – the oldest, continuously published Catholic scholarly journal in the United States – is committed to encouraging research and publishing articles on the American Catholic experience. The quarterly journal features broad-ranging scholarship that contributes to our understanding of Catholicism in the American context as it intersects with history, literature, culture, politics, art and architecture, theology, and popular movements.

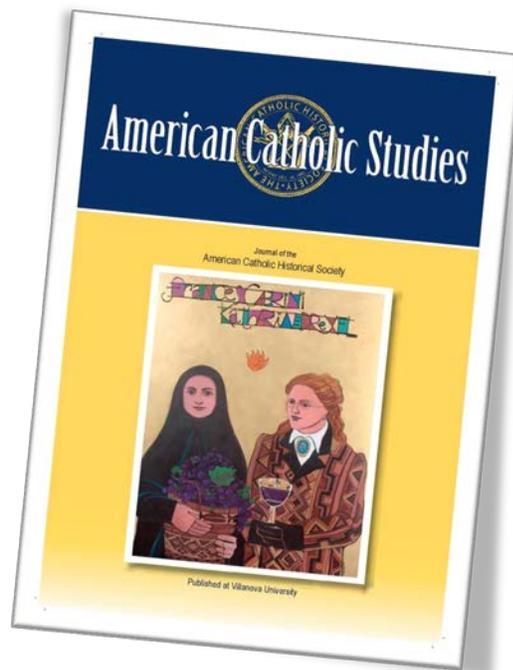
The journal has won numerous awards from the Catholic Press Association over the years, including First Place for General Excellence among scholarly journals for four of the past six years.

*Consistent excellence in topics, editing, design, and presentation. This publication...attracts solid scholars who offer relevant topics of current interest.*

– Catholic Press Association

Published at Villanova University, the journal reaches a national and international audience through our agreements with JSTOR and Project MUSE, scholarly databases that provide full-text digital access to member libraries in the United States and internationally.

Your membership in the American Catholic Historical Society automatically subscribes you to *American Catholic Studies*.  
**All members are subscribers, and all subscribers are members!**



### EDITORIAL BOARD

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Nicholas Rademacher, Cabrini University

Managing Editor  
Leigh Anne McCabe, Villanova University

Contact:  
americancatholicstudies@villanova.edu

## ACHS News and Notes

One of the major developments of this past year has been the Society's growing relationship with the Redemptorists and support of their efforts to promote Catholic history in Philadelphia. With their archives located at St. Peter the Apostle in Northern Liberties, the Redemptorists are currently in the process of establishing a museum dedicated to the life of St. John Neumann on the first floor of the former parish school. As part of those efforts, the Society has provided financial support for their purchase of a rare "Carey Bible" – named for Mathew Carey of Philadelphia, the person responsible for publishing the first Catholic Bible in the United States. The Society has also agreed to a loan of a nineteenth-century brass microscope that we have had in storage. It will be used to illustrate Neumann's interest in science and his work as an amateur botanist.

As the newsletter goes to press, final touches are currently being put on our new exhibit for 2018-2019. "Change of Plans: Alternative Architectural Visions of Catholic Philadelphia" looks at the architectural history of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia through the lens of what might have been. Proposed plans and models are paired with completed designs to show how adjustments, alterations, and alternative visions affected the "look" of Philadelphia Catholicism. Those familiar with the churches, schools, hospitals, and other institutions within the archdiocese may be surprised to discover that familiar places might have looked very different had other design decisions been made. The exhibit also highlights some of the prominent architects and builders who worked within the archdiocese and the legacy that they left. Visitors are welcome to view the exhibit during any of our events throughout the year.



In news from the Board of Managers, we are pleased to welcome Mr. Christopher Gibbons as our newest member. A graduate of Roman Catholic High School, Chris has been a familiar face around the Society. He was one of the first people we reached out to when we launched our Sunday afternoon local history talks. He shared the work that he has been doing to track down the names of those Roman alumni who served in World War I. He has published several pieces on the topic in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and other outlets.

The Board has also voted to establish a prize at St. Charles Seminary in honor of Monsignor Richard T. Bolger, one of our long-standing board members. The award honors the college seminarian judged by the faculty to have demonstrated excellence in "field education." The new prize serves as a companion to the prize in church history that the Society established several years ago in honor of our Executive Director, Monsignor James P. McCoy.

We also extend a note of congratulations to board member Lou Baldwin, a name familiar to many readers of the *Catholic Standard and Times* and *CatholicPhilly.com*. His reporting earned him a first place award from the Catholic Press Association for best news coverage of a local event for his work on parish life in the archdiocese.

Speaking of publication, we are pleased to report that the full run of the *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society* dating back to the 1880s and back issues of *American Catholic Studies* from 1999-2015 have been digitized and entered into JSTOR, the leading digital archival repository for scholarly journals. These issues are available to those with institutional access to JSTOR (Arts & Sciences series XV), which includes most major research libraries.

We are also pleased to announce that the board has approved the appointment of Dr. Nicholas Rademacher of Cabrini University as the journal's new co-editor. Having served as associate editor since 2014, he brings to ACS a strong background in religious studies, theology, and Catholic social teaching.

Finally, there have been a number of modest upgrades to the Society's house this past summer. We repainted the windows, shutters, front door, and external trim, helping to brighten up the façade and show our best face to the neighborhood. We also obtained a new statue of the Blessed Mother to grace our backyard garden. We hope that you will be able to see the new statue and enjoy the time at the Society's house this coming year. Check out our calendar of events on page 7 of this newsletter to plan your visits!

Join us throughout the year to view our newest exhibit, *Change of Plans: Alternative Architectural Visions of Catholic Philadelphia*. The materials will be on display at all events held at the Society's house, 263 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Recap of Our 2017-2018 Events

### Exhibit

Our exhibit for 2017-2018, "Images of Sanctity: Holy Cards of the Catholic Church, 1800 to the Present," offered lessons on the history, design, manufacture, and spiritual significance of holy cards within American Catholicism. We are grateful to the Archives of the Archdiocese of New York for loaning us the exhibit, and to the Redemptorist archives in Philadelphia for allowing us to borrow some of their materials to supplement the display.

### Lectures

We continued our tradition of holding two formal lectures each year featuring the work of scholars who have recently published books on the history of U.S. Catholicism.

We were pleased to work with the Social Justice Committee of Old St. Joseph's Church to host Eileen Markey in October to share the story of Sister Maura Clarke, one of the American churchwomen killed in El Salvador in 1980. Her biography of Clarke, *A Radical Faith*, reveals how the daughter of Irish immigrants from Queens, New York, came to rethink her work as a missionary and fight for the poor and champion the struggle for liberation.

In April, Dr. Daniel Moran came to speak on the making of Flannery O'Connor's literary career. How did she come to be the literary figure we know of today? He discussed how it took a while for her editors, publishers, and readers to come to see her not just as a "Southern" writer, but as a "Catholic" one, too.

### Local History Talks

We continued our recent series of talks on Philadelphia Catholicism with three fascinating presentations. In September, Dr. Maggie McGuinness of La Salle University spoke on the work of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Philadelphia. A member of the ACHS board and past editor of *American Catholic Studies*, she is currently working on a new biography of St. Katharine Drexel.

Then, in February, Dr. Tia Pratt of St. Joseph's University spoke about the history of systemic racism in Catholic parishes, drawing on the sociological research she conducted in Philadelphia and New York. After reviewing demographic figures on black Catholics in the United States and discussing the challenges of obtaining an accurate count, she discussed how black Catholics have often been marginalized within the church and how they have used liturgy to cultivate an African American Catholic identity.

Finally, we welcomed Fr. Michael DiGregorio, OSA, prior of the Augustinian province of St. Thomas of Villanova, who spoke on the Italian Augustinian mission in South Philadelphia. His remarks included a reflection on the importance of immigrant outreach to the church's mission in our own day.

### Parties, Socials, and Special Events

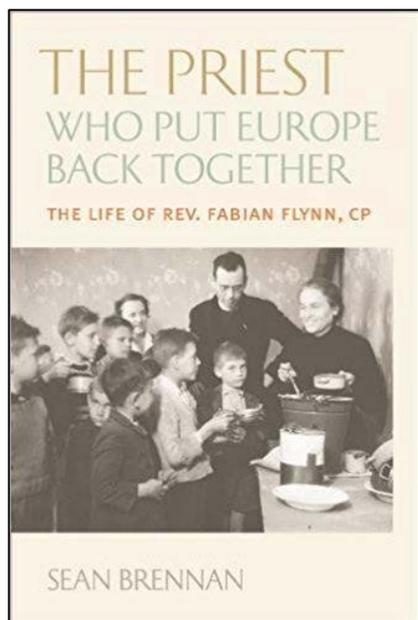
We opened the house once again for our regular series of parties and socials to celebrate Christmas, honor St. Patrick, and mark the start of summer with our annual Garden Party. A great time was had by all!



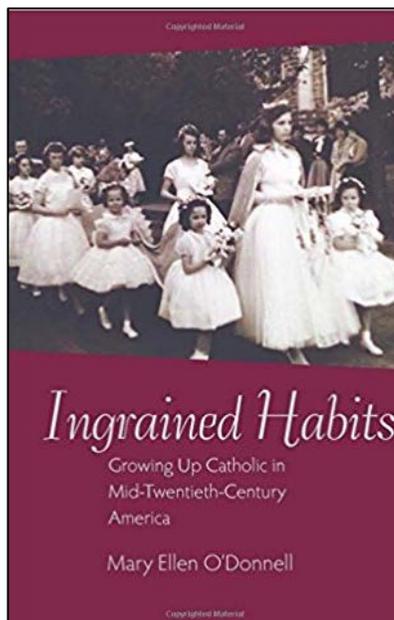
Our Fall Lecture by Eileen Markey on the life of Sister Maura Clarke was offered in conjunction with Old St. Joseph's church.



Dr. Daniel Moran joined us in April to share his work on Flannery O'Connor and the making of her literary reputation.



Our Fall 2018 lecture will feature Dr. Sean Brennan of the University of Scranton speaking on his new biography of Fr. Fabian Flynn, who played an important role in Catholic efforts to rebuild Europe after World War II.



Our Spring 2019 lecture will feature Dr. Mary Ellen O'Donnell speaking on her new book on the cultural significance of growing up Catholic in mid-twentieth century America.

Want to keep informed about our events? Like us on FACEBOOK!

## 2018 - 2019 Calendar of Events

Sunday, September 23, 2018 @ 2pm

Dr. Marian Ronan, New York Theological Seminary  
"The Grail Movement: Women at the Heart of Catholic Action"  
Free and Open to the Public

Tuesday, October 2, 2018 @ 7pm

Book talk by Thom Nickels  
*Philadelphia Mansions: Stories and Characters Behind the Walls*  
Free and Open to the Public

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

5pm social hour | 6pm dinner | 7pm lecture  
Annual Fall Lecture

Dr. Sean Brennan, University of Scranton  
"Fr. Fabian Flynn: The Priest Who Put Europe Back Together"  
\$15 members / \$25 non-members

Friday, November 16, 2018

Barry Award Dinner  
Honoring James D. and Jacqueline J. Delaney  
Union League of Philadelphia

Friday, December 7, 2018 @ 6pm

Annual Christmas Party  
\$15 members / \$25 non-members

Sunday, February 17, 2019 @ 2pm

Maureen O'Riordan, Independent Scholar  
"Philadelphia Carmel: The History of Devotion to St. Therese in the Archdiocese"  
Free and Open to the Public

Friday, March 8, 2019 @ 6pm

Annual St. Patrick's Day Social  
\$15 members / \$25 non-members

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

5pm social hour | 6pm dinner | 7pm lecture  
Annual Spring Lecture  
Mary Ellen O'Donnell,  
"Ingrained Habits: Growing Up Catholic in Mid-Twentieth Century America"  
\$15 members / \$25 non-members

Sunday, May 5, 2019 @ 2pm

Ryan Halloran, Temple University  
"Sports and the Shaping of Philadelphia Catholicism"  
Free and Open to the Public

Friday, June 7, 2019 @ 6pm

Annual Garden Party  
\$15 members and non-members

AND OTHER EVENTS AS THEY ARE ADDED

# Your Membership Sustains the Work of the ACHS. Join or Renew Today!

<p><b>I'd like to join the American Catholic Historical Society. (includes a subscription to <i>American Catholic Studies</i>)</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p><b>Email:</b> _____</p> <p>Please check one subscription option:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Special new membership rate!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Regular one year membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Two-year membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$120 Three-year membership</b> (BEST VALUE and includes gift subscription for a friend!)</p> <p>Please check one payment option</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bill Me</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Charge my: __ VISA __ MasterCard</p> <p>Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p>	<p>I have decided to take advantage of the best offer...I would like a <b>3-year</b> membership in the ACHS and send my one-year gift subscription to <i>American Catholic Studies</i> at NO EXTRA CHARGE to:</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address/Apt. No. _____</p> <p>City/State/Zip _____</p> <p><b>Email</b> _____</p> <p>Please remit to: American Catholic Studies PO Box 465 Hanover PA 17331-0465</p> <p><i>You can also join online at: <a href="http://www.amchs.org/membership/index.html">www.amchs.org/membership/index.html</a></i></p>
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## American Catholic Historical Society

263 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street | Philadelphia, PA 19106